



General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 December 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session

Agenda items 19, 20, 23, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 55,
57, 58, 59, 61, 106 and 110

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Letter dated 4 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the Nineteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held on 30 November and 1 December 2009, in Estoril, Portugal, which had as its main theme: "Innovation and knowledge".



I attach herewith the documents adopted during the Summit, including the "Declaration of Lisbon on Innovation and Knowledge" (see annex I), the "Programme of Action" (see annex II) and the special communiqués presented by members of the Ibero-American Conference and adopted during the Summit (see annex III).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 19, 20, 23, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 55, 57, 58, 59, 61, 106 and 110.

(Signed) **José Filipe Moraes Cabral**
Ambassador

Annex I to the letter dated 4 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

Lisbon Declaration

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Estoril, Portugal, on 30 November and 1 December 2009 to discuss the theme "Innovation and knowledge",

Aware that innovation and knowledge are essential tools for eradicating poverty, combating hunger and improving public health and ensuring that regional development is sustainable, integrated, inclusive, equitable and environmentally friendly, with particular emphasis on the situation of the most vulnerable economies,

Reaffirming our common goal of advancing towards public policies in the area of innovation and knowledge that promote equity, inclusion, diversity, solidarity and social justice, as well as full respect for gender equality, and which help counteract the impact of the world financial and economic crisis on our countries with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of life of our peoples,

Underscoring the importance of universal, democratic and equitable participation in the discussion of and search for solutions to this crisis, which did not originate in Ibero-America, and recognizing and encouraging the regional initiatives developed to deal with it,

Reaffirming our dedication to the values, principles and agreements that make up the Ibero-American heritage,

Bearing in mind the valuable contributions of the sectoral ministerial meetings, parliamentary and local government forums and civic and business events, and especially the workshop and seminars dealing with key innovation and knowledge issues, that have been held throughout the past year in Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Portugal,

Agree

1. To give priority to innovation within the framework of the national development strategies of our countries through the design and execution of medium- and long-term public policies of a fiscal, financial or credit-related nature and aimed at the agents of innovation and knowledge (businesses, especially small and medium-sized businesses, universities, research and development centres, Governments and social sectors) and the general public, and by promoting their interaction in order to encourage the gradual development of a culture of innovation;
2. To strengthen national institutions of innovation and promote close cooperation among the Governments of Ibero-America by building on the multiple synergies and complementarities and respecting national specificities;
3. To promote the creation of a new and ambitious programme, to be drawn up by a working group of Government officials from each country, coordinated by the Ibero-American Secretariat. This programme will be devoted to applied research and technological innovation. It will be inclusive and open to all countries and will

complement and be closely linked to existing programmes. The programme will also be aimed at creating a more balanced model of social and economic adaptation of knowledge in Ibero-American societies;

4. Through the Forum of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Officials, to promote the coordination and development of synergies and interfaces among the various programmes, initiatives and activities in innovation, research and higher education that make up the Ibero-American knowledge base;

5. To emphasize the critical importance of improving the supply and quality of labour of the Ibero-American peoples as a prerequisite for the promotion of innovation;

6. To develop and encourage strategies for stimulating entry into the labour market, promoting entrepreneurship and expanding employment rights and quality of employment, including the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and telecommuting to provide decent work;

7. To encourage scientific and technological development and public and private inputs in order to increase investment in research and development, the training and retention of talent and human resources with qualifications in science and technology, and innovation and support at all levels of education by endeavouring to ensure the open functioning of national systems of science and technology and promoting scientific quality at the highest level;

8. To promote and stimulate investment in the communications infrastructure, including support for extensive broadband access, especially in sectors with limited resources and in rural areas;

9. To further strategies aimed at providing universal access to ICTs and to promote the development of digital content, including digital and technological literacy programmes, in order to ensure the appropriation of knowledge by society;

10. To develop or promote programmes for the transfer of technologies to developing countries, especially in Ibero-America, for the purpose of solving the region's economic, environmental and social problems;

11. To promote respect for and the recovery of ancestral, traditional and local knowledge, especially that of indigenous Ibero-American peoples and Afro-descendent groups, and to encourage their inclusion in innovative processes;

12. To promote international scientific and technological collaboration and ensure academic freedom as a fundamental requirement for a culture of democracy and innovation;

13. To spur on increased cooperation among all levels of the academic sector, research centres and public and private businesses in order to create synergies and working networks that will promote the transfer and absorption of research results; this will enable production facilities, educational establishments, the market and society at large to meet community needs more effectively, which in turn will have a clear and beneficial impact on the performance of Ibero-American countries in terms of innovation and scientific and technological progress;

14. To encourage coordinated cooperation with other regional or international organizations, networks and programmes in the fields of science and technology, innovation and higher education with a view to strengthening the international role

of the Ibero-American knowledge base and to create the right conditions to attract resources for the encouragement of innovation in small and medium-sized businesses;

15. To intensify Ibero-American cooperation in innovation and knowledge on the basis of the principles of solidarity, humanism and complementarity, while allowing for the asymmetries of the region and the particular characteristics, needs and specificities of our peoples, especially where educational guidance is concerned, with a view to ensuring that every member country benefits from the Ibero-American Conference;

16. To encourage implementation in the universities of strategies for promoting entrepreneurship and enhanced appreciation of scientific and technological research, strategies which will be of assistance to communities and attuned to the circumstances and needs of our peoples;

17. To facilitate talent and human resource development in scientific and technological innovation with a view to interesting more young people in scientific careers, in accordance with the San Salvador Declaration, and to promote scientific culture, information activities and education with due regard for the intercultural characteristics of our respective societies, including the encouragement of initiatives that enable recent graduates to join public and private entities and research centres;

18. To ensure and promote free and safe access to and use of ICTs for society as a whole, especially children, young people and persons with disabilities, with emphasis on inclusion and equality, regardless of gender, age or geography, thereby making access a basic and universal right;

19. To highlight the vital role of the State in encouraging and coordinating innovative actions and policies of an economic and social nature;

20. To take the necessary steps in Ibero-America to introduce innovative features into public policies in order to enhance the quality and efficiency of the services which the State provides to society in general;

21. To stimulate the exchange and transfer of technologies between the enterprises and Governments of the countries of the region in accordance with the concept of open innovation;

22. To reiterate the importance of innovation, knowledge and the transfer of technology in confronting climate change, and in this context to continue to participate on an active and coordinated basis in the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December 2009;

23. To promote and encourage the use of energy produced from renewable energy sources and to combat climate change;

24. To contribute, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, to a global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on the basis of quantified national targets for developed countries and nationally appropriate mitigation actions, in keeping with the national conditions of developing countries and supported by an adequate flow of financial resources and technology transfer;

25. To work to ensure that developing countries' adaptation to the negative effects of climate change is supported by new and additional international financial flows on an adequate and predictable basis;
26. To advocate for developed countries' provision of enhanced financial and technical assistance to developing countries in connection with climate change, emphasizing the key role that must be played in that regard by international public financing; and to recognize the supplementary role which the private sector can play in support of mitigation actions and clean technologies;
27. To welcome best practices for responding adequately to the challenges posed by the international financial and economic crisis, which was also a subject of discussion at this Summit; to support, in that regard, a substantial increase of capital for the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank in order to ensure that they have sufficient resources to carry out their development financing mandates; to urge that the process of substantially increasing the capital process of the Inter-American Development Bank should be completed at the next meeting of its Board of Governors, to be held in March 2010, and that the review of the World Bank should be finalized at the spring meetings to be held in April 2010, and to further the adoption of measures designed to make the practices of those institutions more efficient and more rational and, in this regard, to express our determination to participate in and contribute actively to a radical and far-reaching transformation of the international financial architecture;
28. To provide for implementation of the measures agreed on at this Summit and to request the Ibero-American Secretariat to carry out the mandates resulting from the Lisbon Programme of Action, which is an integral part of this Declaration;
29. To thank the Government of Paraguay for offering to organize the Twenty-first Summit of Heads of State and Government in 2011;
30. To reaffirm our gratitude to the Government of Argentina for hosting the Twentieth Ibero-American Summit in 2010, in the city of Mar del Plata, and to the Government of Spain, which will host the Twenty-second Summit, in Cádiz, in 2012;
31. To thank the Ibero-American Secretariat for its work in 2009, pursuant to the mandates resulting from the Summits;
32. To note the entry into the Ibero-American Conference of the Kingdom of Belgium and the Italian Republic as associate observers, and of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), the Unión Latina and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) as advisory observers; and
33. To express our sincerest gratitude to the people and authorities of Portugal for their warm welcome on the occasion of this Nineteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government.

We herewith sign the present Declaration in two originals in the Portuguese and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic, at Estoril, Portugal, on 1 December 2009.

Annex to the letter dated 4 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

Lisbon Programme of Action

We, the Heads of State and Government of Ibero-America, taking into account the objectives established in the Declaration of the Nineteenth Ibero-American Summit and the deliberations on the theme "Innovation and knowledge" and the other themes on the current agenda of the Conference, and pursuant to the mandates of previous Summits,

Have agreed on the following decisions, which comprise the Programme of Action:

1. To promote the creation of a new and ambitious programme, to be drawn up by a working group of Government officials from each country, coordinated by the Ibero-American Secretariat; this programme will be devoted to applied research and technological innovation. It will be inclusive and open to all countries and will complement and be closely linked to existing programmes. The programme will also be aimed at creating a more balanced model of social and economic ownership of knowledge in Ibero-American societies. Once the programme has been drawn up, its initial secretariat will be provided by the Studies and Projects Financing Agency of Brazil, as volunteered by the Republic of Brazil;
2. To promote the design, development and coordination of national public policies aimed at providing universal access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) as important factors in the economic and social development of our countries, including public-private partnerships, with the strategic objective of creating an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information and knowledge society; to encourage access to and the free and safe use of ICTs by the children and young people of Ibero-America; and to appeal to all countries to increase their efforts to ensure the protected use of these media by combating all forms of violation of the rights of the child, especially child pornography;
3. To design a specific plan for stimulating entry into the labour market, promoting entrepreneurship and expanding employment rights and quality of employment for young people, including the use of ICTs and telecommuting;
4. To support the secretariat proposal for the organization of an Ibero-American Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation, every two years, in coordination with the Forum of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Officials, with the objective of spurring the development of those areas in Ibero-America and exchanging good practices;
5. To promote respect for and the recovery of ancestral, traditional and local knowledge, especially that of indigenous Ibero-American peoples and Afro-descendant groups, and to encourage their inclusion in innovative processes;
6. To instruct the Secretariat to carry out a study that will serve as the basis for implementation of an Ibero-American programme, with a view to its presentation at

a possible meeting on industrial property and the promotion of development, to be held in Buenos Aires; and to encourage the exchange of information through the interface of Spanish and Portuguese public industrial property databases, together with the development of existing training activities and the promotion of technology transfer. That study must cover, in particular, industrial property offices, the academic and research sector and the business sector, especially small and medium-sized businesses;

7. To evaluate the advances made in the Ibero-American knowledge base and the role of the Ibero-American Forum of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Officials in achieving the harmonious integration of initiatives and programmes both in this sphere and within the framework of, *inter alia*, the Ibero-American Programme on Science and Technology for Development and the Pablo Neruda Programme of Academic Mobility; to note the stimulus which the Third Forum imparted to the strengthening of national systems in order to evaluate the quality of and validate higher education programmes and institutions as a way to contribute to the promotion of cooperation and to ensure the academic recognition of educational credits, in accordance with the legislation in force in each country; and to instruct the Secretariat, the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture and the Ibero-American University Council to continue their support and strengthening of the Forum and to promote the search for sources of public and/or private financing;

8. To request the Secretariat to continue its analysis of the impact of the global economic and financial crisis on Ibero-American countries and to cooperate with the Governments of member States and promote any discussions of that issue that they may consider appropriate, pursuant to the mandate of the Eighteenth Summit, in San Salvador, and mindful of, *inter alia*, the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, held in New York from 24 to 26 June 2009, together with the contributions of the Special Meeting of Ibero-American Ministers of Finance (Porto, Portugal), the International Meeting on the role of banks in the recovery of Ibero-American economies (Madrid), the Meeting of Economists on the promotion of the sustainable recovery of Ibero-American economies (Santander, Spain) and the Ibero-American Seminar on social policies in times of crisis (Asunción);

9. To continue the collaboration with the High Representative of the Secretary-General for the Alliance of Civilizations, especially in regard to application of the conclusions of the Alliance's Second Forum, held in Istanbul in April 2009; and, within this framework of collaboration, to reiterate the invitation to join the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations to the Ibero-American countries that have yet to do so;

10. Also to request the Secretariat to begin to formulate a regional Ibero-American strategy for intercultural dialogue, in close cooperation with the High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, the sponsors of the initiative and the countries concerned; and to contribute to preparations for the Third Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations, to be held in Rio de Janeiro on 27 and 28 May 2010;

11. To acknowledge the contribution of the Meeting of High Officials on non-discrimination, equality and diversities, held in Buenos Aires on 24 and 25 September; and, in that regard, to support the agreements expressed in the core document adopted at that meeting;

12. To take note of the Ibero-American Seminar of Young Indigenous and Afro-descendant Leaders, held in Brasilia, from 4 to 6 November 2009, and of the Seminar on Ibero-American Experiences in Public Policies to Promote Ethnic and Racial Equality with a Gender Perspective, held in Salvador, Brazil, from 15 to 17 November 2009;

13. To highlight the launch of the Programme to Strengthen South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America and the appointment of its director, together with the adoption and publication of the third edition of the Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America;

14. To reiterate the commitment to integrated, non-exclusive and equitable regional development, mindful of the importance of ensuring favourable treatment for small and vulnerable economies, including those of landlocked developing countries;

15. To reaffirm the Montevideo Commitment on Migration and Development as a model for the governance of international migration and for observance and protection of the human rights of migrants and to highlight their contributions to their societies of origin and destination; to reaffirm, in this context, the special relevance of the Second Meeting of the Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development, to be held in El Salvador in the second half of 2010; and to highlight the importance of continuing to make progress in implementation of the Montevideo Commitment and the Cuenca Programme of Action within the most appropriate framework for that purpose: cooperation among the Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre — Population Division (CELADE) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), with the participation, as necessary, of each country's national bodies in the field of migration;

16. To reaffirm the commitment to implement and follow up transparent, concerted and gender-sensitive public policies with full respect for human rights, to address violence and public safety, requesting the Ibero-American Secretariat to take the necessary measures to organize the Third Ibero-American Forum on the theme in 2010;

17. To commend the initiative for an Ibero-American Justice Observatory, a decision made by the Standing Committee of the Conference of Ministers of Justice of Ibero-American Countries; to applaud the rapprochement between the IberRed and Eurojust networks as a tool for combating organized crime; and to welcome the initiative of the Ibero-American Judicial Summit in the area of integrity, transparency and accountability of the judiciary;

18. To welcome the activities agreed upon in Ibero-America to commemorate at the national, subregional, regional and Ibero-American levels the bicentenary of Ibero-American independence; and to highlight the national efforts and initiatives being carried out to commemorate the independence of the peoples of the Americas;

19. To reaffirm our commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, especially through the exchange of experiences and good practices, particularly in regard to public policies; and to instruct the Ibero-American Secretariat to continue the actions begun in this field;

20. To strengthen the role and responsibility of the State by establishing innovative public policies that will ensure the right to health, especially for the most vulnerable, and by allocating significant resources to primary health care, in accordance with the principles of equity, solidarity, universality, comprehensive coverage and participation; and to share experiences that have reduced inequalities in access to health care and expedited achievement of the targets established in the Millennium Development Goals;
21. To follow through on the commitments made at the Eleventh Ibero-American Conference of Health Ministers on innovation and primary health care; and to support the establishment of a working group, made up of El Salvador, Portugal and Argentina, which will design the 2009-2011 plan of action for the development and strengthening of integrated health systems, to be submitted to all member countries for their consideration;
22. To pursue the process of ratifying the Multilateral Ibero-American Social Security Convention, which was concluded at the Seventeenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, so that it may enter into force and the respective Implementation Agreement, the text of which was adopted at the Seventh Conference of Social Security Ministers and Senior Officials, may be signed; to endorse the Ibero-American Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health, which urges the Ibero-American Social Security Organization to continue the work aimed at its development and application; to take note of the progress made in implementing the San Salvador Plan of Action with regard to the situation of older persons in the region; and to encourage the continuation of that work;
23. To make progress towards the identification and implementation, by each country, of the 2021 Goals agreed at the Nineteenth Ibero-American Conference on Education and towards mechanisms to finance them, to be announced at the Twentieth Summit of Heads of State and Government;
24. To highlight initiation of the pilot stage of the Pablo Neruda Mobility Programme in the hope that it will develop in a socially inclusive manner, and to stipulate that an assessment of its impact on the effective exchange of postgraduate students among the countries members of the Programme shall be made;
25. To thank the Government of Chile for its contribution to the creation and launch of the Ibero-American Child Development Fund, which has been responsible for the implementation of eight specific projects for the strengthening of comprehensive child welfare systems in 12 Latin American countries, to be completed in 2010; and to highlight implementation of the Child Policy Training Programme;
26. To take note of the launch of the 2009-2015 Ibero-American Youth Cooperation and Integration Plan, particularly with regard to youth participation, institutional strengthening and implementation of and compliance with the Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Young People and to continue to support the Plan's implementation strategy;
27. To regard as indispensable the assessment of the gender and ethnicity impact of policies in the fields of innovation and knowledge in order to ensure equal conditions in scientific and technological applications;

28. To reaffirm our strongest condemnation of all kinds of violence against women, including human trafficking, which especially affects women and, above all, girls; to commend the launch of the Ibero-American Campaign against Gender Violence, which some of our Governments have sponsored with the collaboration of the Secretariat and the Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ), in the hope that this campaign will sensitize the Ibero-American community to this serious problem and that, together with other initiatives, especially the campaign of the United Nations Secretary-General entitled "Unite to End Violence against Women", it will add to the joint effort with a view to ensuring that all countries will take the necessary steps to end the mistreatment of women, and, in that regard, to highlight that Guatemala was the first country to launch this campaign nationally, through its Solidarity Council, with the support of the United Nations;
29. To take note of the progress made by the Water Resources Management Programme, within the framework of the Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors; and to welcome the holding of the Seminar on Gender and Water;
30. To take note of Ecuador's entitled "Yasuni ITT" initiative, which seeks, inter alia, to explore and develop alternative sources of revenue, reduce the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and optimize the conservation of biodiversity;
31. To take note of the conclusions of the Eighth Meeting of Traffic and Road Safety Officials, held in Santiago, Chile, on 14 June 2009, which will improve road safety in Ibero-America through efforts to collect reliable traffic accident data and establish authoritative policies and more rigorous driver licensing procedures;
32. To take note of the outcome of the First Ibero-American and Caribbean Meeting on Road Safety, "Protecting Lives", which instructs the Secretariat to continue to support implementation of the Madrid Principles; to highlight the importance of the establishment of the Ibero-American Road Safety Association and the initiative to promote the establishment of an Ibero-American Federation of Traffic Accident Victims; to welcome the holding of the Second Ibero-American and Caribbean Meeting on Road Safety, to be held in Mexico in 2011; and to request the Secretariat to collaborate in its organization;
33. To request the Secretariat and the Ibero-American Programme of Inter-Agency Cooperation for the Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises to continue its work on identifying and replicating good practices in public policies to support small and medium-sized enterprises, especially in the field of technological innovation and management, and to extend this experience to other sectors, such as social industrial enterprises; to commend the work carried out by the Ibero-American Quality Programme (IBERQUALITAS) and by the Secretariat in the dissemination of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001 quality management systems in small and medium-sized enterprises; and to instruct the Secretariat to seek formulas that will allow those management systems to be replicated, provided that they are requested by member States;
34. To highlight the commitment, made at the First Ibero-American Conference of Ministers of Communications, to promote access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) by means of joint initiatives; and to underline the expressed will of the countries present that the communications sector should be placed within the purview of the Ibero-American Summits of Heads of State and Government;

35. To recognize that the work being carried out under the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2010) is greatly helping to unleash the potential of ICTs in the promotion of the Millennium Development Goals, with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society, with the primary objective of reducing poverty in the region;

36. To highlight the work carried out by the Social Inclusion and ICTs Project in identifying good practices to achieve sustainable development through the use of ICTs in such sectors as livestock farming, education and tourism, with a view to ensuring their wider application and access by the less developed economic sectors;

37. To promote a greater role for tourism in Ibero-American economies, with an emphasis on public policies and on investment in quality training, innovation and new technologies applied to tourism;

38. To welcome the adoption of the Ibero-American Charter for Civic Participation in Public Management, adopted at the Eleventh Ibero-American Conference of Ministers of Public Administration and State Reform, which promotes ethics in public management and increases the institutional capacities needed to ensure democratic governance, the achievement of development goals on an inclusive, just and socially equitable basis, and efficient coordination and cooperation in these areas;

39. To welcome the second diploma course organized by the Ibero-American School of Government and Public Policy (IBERGOP) programme on the theme "Formulation and Assessment of Public Policies and Innovation", in accordance with the guidelines of the meeting of Ministers from the Office of the President and their Counterparts;

40. To continue to promote the establishment of the Ibero-American Virtual Centre for Studies in International Peace and Security, as agreed at the Santiago and San Salvador Summits, in order to encourage the transfer of information, studies and academic experiences and ongoing contacts among Ibero-American defence colleges, with an emphasis on the virtual network and new information technologies;

41. To highlight the results of the Seventh Meeting of Directors of Ibero-American Academies, Institutes and Schools of Diplomacy, held in Lisbon on 19 and 20 October 2009, especially the importance of the central theme of the Innovation and Knowledge Summit as a tool in the education and training of diplomats;

42. To support the decision of the directors of Ibero-American academies, institutes and schools of diplomacy to establish a platform for action that will permit the exchange of experiences and innovative ways to transmit knowledge to Ibero-American diplomats, enabling them to engage in continuing professional education;

43. To welcome the decision to issue a biannual publication on topics of current international interest, which will disseminate the work of students of academies and institutes of diplomacy;

44. To highlight the fourth annual specialization course for young Ibero-American diplomats, held in Lisbon in the fourth quarter of 2009 and coordinated by the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Portuguese Republic,

with financial support from the Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development and the Secretariat;

45. To highlight progress towards the creation of an Ibero-American Prize for Innovative Entrepreneurs, in accordance with the mandate of the El Salvador Summit;

46. As regards the Plan of Action of the Ibero-American Cultural Charter, to congratulate ourselves on the holding in October 2009 in São Paulo, Brazil, of the Second Congress of Ibero-American Culture, dedicated to culture and social change; and to welcome the holding of the Third Congress in Medellín, Colombia, in June 2010;

47. To highlight the positive outcome of the Twelfth Ibero-American Conference on Culture, with the theme "Portuguese and Spanish: shared languages and instruments of identity, creativity and multiculturalism", and to urge Ministers of Culture to implement the agreed actions;

48. To approve the transformation of the IBERORQUESTAS youth orchestras initiative into an Ibero-American programme; to recognize the work of Venezuelan maestro José Antonio Abreu, of the State Foundation for the National System of Youth and Children's Orchestras of Venezuela, and the countries that participate in the programme for their contribution to the establishment of a musical space in Ibero-America; and to welcome the creation of the Ibero-American Youth Orchestra;

49. To acknowledge the merit of the initiatives of Ibero-American countries' efforts to teach Portuguese in Spanish-speaking countries and Spanish in Portuguese-speaking countries, which have been encouraged both bilaterally and by regional integration processes, following the example of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR); to welcome the willingness of the Portuguese-speaking countries of Ibero-America to develop and implement programmes for the training of Portuguese teachers, from primary through secondary education, in the educational systems of countries that decide to make it compulsory to learn Portuguese as a second language or that have bilingual education programmes in Spanish and Portuguese; and to highlight, in that context, the willingness of the Camões Institute to further this goal by maintaining a wide-ranging digital and training bibliography at its Virtual Centre;

50. To instruct the Secretariat to carry out a study to assess the Ibero-American Public Library Cooperation Programme, in collaboration with the Regional Centre for Book Promotion in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal and within the framework of the Operating Manual;

51. To acknowledge the work of the IBERMEDIA Programme in expanding the distribution, projection and marketing of Ibero-American films by the public television stations of Ibero-America; and to request member countries to take the necessary steps to strengthen the Programme;

52. To acknowledge DOCTV Iberoamérica as a programme of the Conference of Audiovisual and Cinematographic Authorities of Ibero-America, which brings together audiovisual authorities, public television stations and associations of independent producers of Ibero-American countries with a view to the implementation of integrated public policies to promote the production and televised broadcast of documentaries and ensure their distribution;

53. To request the Secretariat, in its follow-up to the measures listed in the document entitled "Institutional Strengthening of the Ibero-American Conference", which was adopted at the Eighteenth Ibero-American Summit, to present specific proposals, as soon as possible, on ways of improving linkages, coordination and rationalization in the functioning of the Ibero-American Conference and deriving maximum benefit therefrom;

54. To instruct the Secretariat to prepare in 2010 a proposal for a new Operating Manual for Ibero-American Cooperation which will cover, inter alia, the structural and management aspects of the Ibero-American Summit programmes, initiatives and projects, the role of cooperation officials and of the Secretariat, and a review of the Ibero-American Cooperation Strategy, approved in 2007 at the Santiago Summit, with a view to strengthening Ibero-American cooperation in the future;

55. Likewise, to instruct the Secretariat to carry out a study, in consultation with member countries, in which it reviews the expiration dates of instruments and agreements and, if necessary, considers the appropriateness and feasibility of modifying the cooperation-related parts of the Bariloche and Santa Cruz de la Sierra Agreements and, depending on its conclusions, proposes that they be amended to strengthen Ibero-American cooperation;

56. To instruct the Secretariat to promote rationalization of the number of cooperation initiatives and to work to ensure that most of the cooperation initiatives presented at previous Summits become Summit programmes or are included in them, in a suitable time frame, in accordance with the Operating Manual for Ibero-American cooperation;

57. To conclude the Ibero-American Tourism Enterprise Initiative;

58. To instruct the Secretariat to submit a proposal for an increase in the resources it allocates from its regular budget and its other resources to the Programme to Strengthen South-South Cooperation or to other programmes, at the decision of cooperation officials, with a target of 5 per cent in 2011 and 10 per cent in 2012;

59. To support cultural programmes and initiatives that request assistance in the application of differentiated quotas, in line with the proposal adopted at the Twelfth Ibero-American Conference on Culture;

60. To commend Mexico on its decision to invite, together with the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Ibero-American cooperation officials to participate in the Policy Dialogue on Development Co-operation, held on 29 September 2009 in Mexico City;

61. To thank the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Portugal and Spain for providing determined support to the organization of the seminars on innovation and knowledge, which produced essential inputs for the discussion of the core theme of the Estoril Summit;

62. To approve the list of 10 sectoral ministerial meetings to be held in Argentina within the framework of the Twentieth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government on the topics of public administration; agriculture; culture; education; gender; children and adolescents; health; employment; tourism; and housing and urban development; and to approve the holding in 2010 of sectoral ministerial meetings on the topics of: justice, in Mexico; youth, in the Dominican

Republic; and environment, in Guatemala, as well as a meeting of the Chairpersons of Councils of Ministers, in Portugal;

63. To instruct the Secretariat to continue to hold Ibero-American Cooperation Days in light of the good results obtained in Peru and Guatemala;

64. To take note of the adoption by the Fourth Ibero-American Forum of Local Governments, held in Lisbon on 19 and 20 November 2009, of the Ibero-American Charter of Local Self-Government, which contains proposals for the administrative and political decentralization of Ibero-American municipalities; and

65. To thank and congratulate Mr. Miguel Hakim Simón, Secretary for Ibero-American Cooperation, who, for the past four years, has helped to strengthen Ibero-American cooperation, laying the foundations for greater transparency and better dissemination of the activities and efforts of the Ibero-American community in the field of cooperation.

Annex III to the letter dated 4 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

Special communiqués presented by members of the Ibero-American Conference and adopted at the Nineteenth Ibero-American Summit

Special communiqué on the situation in Honduras issued by the Presidency

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Estoril, Portugal, have discussed the situation in the Republic of Honduras, including the holding of elections on 29 November. They had the opportunity to receive reports and to learn the Honduran Government's own assessment of the situation.

The Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries condemn the coup d'état in Honduras and regard the grave violations of the rights and fundamental freedoms of the Honduran people as unacceptable. In this connection, they consider that restoring President José Manuel Zelaya to the office to which he was democratically elected for the completion of his constitutional term of office is a vital step towards a return to constitutional normality.

The Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries issue an urgent appeal to those responsible to put an end to the harassment of Brazil's Embassy in Tegucigalpa, ensure its inviolability and that of the persons under its protection, and guarantee freedom of movement for the officials and the entire diplomatic corps accredited to Honduras, in strict compliance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

The Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries will continue to participate actively in the search for a means of initiating a national dialogue in Honduras and restoring the democratic regime to the Honduran people.

The Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries hereby declare their firm commitment to defence of the democratic principles of all countries in Ibero-America with a view to forestalling any attempt to destabilize legitimately elected governments.

Special communiqué on the question of the Malvinas Islands

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Estoril, Portugal, on the occasion of the Nineteenth Ibero-American Summit, reaffirm the need for the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations as soon as possible with a view to an early solution to the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas within the framework of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the Organization of American States and the provisions and goals of the Charter of the United Nations, including the principle of territorial integrity.

Special communiqué in support of combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Estoril, Portugal, on the occasion of the Nineteenth Ibero-American Summit, reiterate our total condemnation of all acts of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable acts, and reaffirm our commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in strict conformity with international law, international human rights standards and international humanitarian law, and to this end shall, *inter alia*, strengthen our national legislation wherever necessary and promote active and effective international cooperation to prevent, investigate, punish and eliminate all manifestations of this scourge.

Moreover, we pledge to take measures to prevent, penalize and eliminate the financing and preparation of all terrorist acts and to deny refuge to those who instigate, finance, perpetrate, sponsor or participate in terrorist activities, in accordance with international legislation, including the corresponding international conventions and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations.

We reaffirm our commitment to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted in September 2006, and reiterate our determination to apply the principles embodied in the Strategy and to implement all the measures provided for therein as the most effective way both of wiping out terrorism and of ensuring full adherence to the rule of law and respect for human rights. In addition, we welcome the work done by the Secretary-General's Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in publicizing and coordinating the work of the United Nations system with a view to integrated implementation of the Strategy.

We reaffirm the need to ensure that those who commit terrorist acts do not go unpunished, and urge all States, in conformity with international law, to cooperate fully in combating terrorism, especially with States in whose territory or against whose citizens terrorist acts are committed, with a view to locating, capturing, denying safe haven to and bringing to justice, on the basis of the principle "*aut dedere aut judicare*", anyone who supports or facilitates the financing, planning, preparation or commission of acts of terrorism or the provision of safe haven and anyone who participates or intends to participate in such acts.

We express our solidarity with the victims and families of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever acts of this nature have occurred and regardless of who has participated in or committed them, of who has sponsored or funded them, or of the pretexts given as a motive for such crimes.

We urge all States to ensure, in conformity with international law, that refugee status or asylum is not invoked illegitimately by those who finance, perpetrate, organize or sponsor terrorist acts, and that claims of political motivation are not used to justify the denial of requests for the extradition of persons sought by justice systems intent on determining their responsibility for terrorist acts.

We reaffirm the special communiqués on terrorism adopted at the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Ibero-American Summits, protest the fact that the perpetrator of a terrorist attack on a Cubana de Aviación aircraft in October 1976, which caused the death of 73 innocent civilians, has not been tried for terrorism, and we support efforts to secure his extradition or prosecution.

We reaffirm the value of extradition as an essential tool in combating terrorism, and urge those States that have received requests for the extradition of terrorists from States members of our community to give them due consideration in strict adherence to the applicable legal framework.

We call on all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to all conventions and protocols relating to terrorism as a matter of urgency, with a view to fulfilling all obligations thereunder, and to all international agreements which require them to provide legal assistance or to prosecute and punish in a prompt and appropriate manner those who finance, sponsor, participate in or commit terrorist acts, in strict conformity with international law and with due regard for human rights and international humanitarian law and the national legislation of each State, in particular terrorist acts committed against facilities for the public transport of goods or passengers, diplomatic missions, and tourist or other public facilities.

We shall continue our efforts to take the necessary and appropriate measures that are consistent with our respective obligations under international law, with a view to prohibiting by law incitement to commit terrorist acts and preventing conduct of that nature.

We request States to cooperate within the framework of the United Nations with a view to the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and to resolve the outstanding issues concerning the draft convention, including those relating to the legal definition and to the scope of the acts covered by the draft convention, so that it may serve as an effective counter-terrorism instrument. We undertake to continue our active cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system in preventing and combating terrorism.

We shall work to establish within the framework of the United Nations, through the solidarity of the international community, a practical mechanism for providing international assistance to the victims of terrorism. We welcome as a positive step the holding, in September 2009, of the International Symposium on Supporting Victims of Terrorism, convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Special communiqué on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba, including the application of the so-called Helms-Burton Act

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Estoril, Portugal, on the occasion of the Nineteenth Ibero-American Summit, in view of the references to this topic in the Declarations adopted at previous Ibero-American Conferences of Heads of State and Government and recognizing the importance of reaffirming and updating the content of the communiqués adopted by the Salamanca, Montevideo, Santiago and San Salvador Summits with the same title, in accordance with the theme of the Nineteenth Ibero-American Summit, "Innovation and Understanding", once again reaffirm, in defence of free trade and transparency in international trade, that the application of unilateral coercive measures that affect the well-being of peoples, and their access to and full enjoyment of the benefits of international cooperation in matters of innovation and knowledge, and which obstruct integration processes, is unacceptable.

We reiterate our vigorous protest against the application of laws and measures that are contrary to international law, such as the Helms-Burton Act, and urge the Government of the United States of America to cease applying it.

We request the Government of the United States of America to comply with the provisions of the 18 successive resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations and to end its economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Special communiqué on the candidacy of Portugal for membership of the United Nations Security Council

The countries of the Ibero-American Summit attach great importance to the election of its members to key positions in international organizations, which strengthens the influence of our community.

In that regard, they welcome the candidacy of Portugal and of other Ibero-American countries non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council (for the biennium 2011-2012) at the elections to be held in October 2010.

Special communiqué on the Alliance of Civilizations

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Estoril, Portugal, on the occasion of the Nineteenth Ibero-American Summit, reiterate our support for the so-called "Alliance of Civilizations" initiative, proposed at the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2004 by the Prime Minister of Spain, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, and also sponsored by the Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, which has been under implementation since 2005 and is now the subject of a consensus resolution in the General Assembly of the United Nations. The goal of the Alliance of Civilizations is to promote policies and initiatives intended to improve dialogue and relations between different cultures as a way of encouraging rapprochement and consensus between States and diverse communities.

Actions taken within the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations are guided by the recommendations of its High-Level Group, made up of 20 experts from different regions, whose goal was to prepare a study/report that, since 2006, has laid out the theories underpinning the initiative, giving priority to education, youth, media and migration.

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, welcome the membership of more than 100 States and international organizations in the Alliance, through the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations. We also welcome Brazil's offer to host the Third Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations in Rio de Janeiro from 28 to 29 May 2010, following the success of the Forums held in Madrid, in 2008, and Istanbul, in 2009. In that regard, we emphasize the importance of achieving the full participation of Ibero-American countries in the Rio de Janeiro Forum, in May 2010, and invite those States that are not yet members of the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations to join it by sending their respective membership forms to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York, or to his High Representative, whose office is in Lisbon.

We also reiterate our support for the proposals made by the United Nations High Representative of the Secretary-General for the Alliance of Civilizations, Jorge Sampaio, with a view to further strengthening the global reach and universal perspective of the initiative by improving its regional balance with regard to Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia.

We express our support for the work done by the Alliance of Civilizations, recognizing the importance of the activities related to the initiative that are being developed by the States and various international organizations that are members of the Group of Friends, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

We welcome the adoption by consensus of the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the Alliance of Civilizations, which expresses the international community's support for the initiative and for the work that it has carried out, recognizes the importance of its Group of Friends and encourages it to continue its work through practical projects in the areas of youth, education, media and migrations, in collaboration with Governments, international organizations, foundations, civil society groups and corporate leaders.

Special communiqué on development cooperation with middle-income countries

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Estoril, Portugal, on the occasion of the Nineteenth Ibero-American Summit, recognize the importance of strengthening and expanding political support on the issue of middle-income countries within the international development agenda and of ensuring that the commitments made at the Spain, El Salvador and Namibia Conferences are met and implemented in a timely manner.

We consider that the Latin American countries are extremely diverse and that their social situation is not adequately reflected in the definition of "middle-income". The social and economic situation of the developing Ibero-American countries is quite varied, and this requires the international donor community to provide targeted cooperation that reflects the recipients' levels and conditions of development and takes additional per capita gross domestic product (GDP) criteria into account in the allocation of resources.

In that regard, we consider it essential to ensure implementation of the resolution on development cooperation with middle-income countries, adopted without a vote at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 2008, and to continue to promote the timely preparation of a comprehensive plan of action in order to solidify cooperation with this group of countries.

We urge the developed countries and international bodies to strengthen their cooperation with middle-income countries in order to complement those countries' efforts to combat poverty effectively and to meet the Millennium Development Goals in a timely manner.

Under the auspices of the countries that have hosted the previous Ministerial Conferences on Middle-Income Countries, we hereby decide to continue to support work related to this initiative within the international development agenda in order to discuss the progress made and to determine what subsequent steps to take, including the timely holding of the next Ministerial Conference on Middle-Income Countries.

Special communiqué on combating corruption

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Estoril, Portugal, on the occasion of the Nineteenth Ibero-American Summit, hereby affirm:

That corruption continues to pose a threat to the social fabric, making it essential to increase cooperation among the countries of the Ibero-American community in order to strengthen national, regional and international efforts to ensure the efficiency of the measures and action taken to prevent, punish and eradicate acts of corruption;

That the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to which there are already 141 States parties, is the greatest step forward to date in international anti-corruption legislation because it encourages the taking of preventive measures, provides for criminalization and for application of the law, and promotes international cooperation and technical assistance, especially in the recovery of assets, which are resources that States cannot allocate to social investment;

That major decisions such as the adoption of an efficient, transparent, impartial and inclusive review and follow-up mechanism that complements existing regional and international follow-up mechanisms were taken within the framework of the Third Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Doha, Qatar, from 9 to 13 November; and

That it is urgent to support the work of the Organization of American States (OAS) Mechanism for Follow-up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), which is a valuable regional cooperation effort designed to prevent and combat the problem of corruption.

Special communiqué on the "Yasuní-ITT" initiative

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Estoril, Portugal, on the occasion of the Nineteenth Ibero-American Summit, welcome Ecuador's Ishpingo-Tambococha-Tiputini (ITT) initiative as an effective voluntary means of addressing the problem of climate change and ensuring conservation of one of the world's most biologically diverse areas.

Under this initiative, Ecuador will forego the extraction of 846 million barrels of oil residing under Yasuní National Park, thereby preventing the 407 million metric tons of carbon that would be produced by the burning of these fossil fuels from being emitted into the atmosphere.

This initiative will promote respect for the cultures of the isolated indigenous peoples living in Yasuní Park, as well as for social development and nature conservation, and will encourage the use of renewable energy sources.

Special communiqué on climate change

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Estoril, Portugal, on the occasion of the Nineteenth Ibero-American Summit, reiterate our conviction that climate change is one of the most urgent challenges that we are currently facing, and that it requires a global, effective and immediate response, guided by justice and equity. We emphasize that combating climate change is an imperative that must be fully compatible with sustainable economic growth and with combating poverty and that it must respond appropriately to adaptation needs, particularly those of the most vulnerable developing countries. The current economic and financial crisis cannot be used to justify inaction in the effort to combat the effects of climate change.

The Ibero-American countries are committed to participating actively in the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009. To that end, they undertake to cooperate with a view to achieving a comprehensive, ambitious and balanced international agreement in Copenhagen in order to address climate change and its impact.

The Ibero-American countries emphasize the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. All developed States parties to the Convention must adopt new, ambitious and quantified national goals for the reduction of greenhouse gases over the medium term, in accordance with their capacities. In turn, the developing countries will contribute with nationally appropriate mitigation actions, supported by an adequate flow of financing and technology. These efforts must be carried out in accordance with the overall objective of preventing an increase in average global temperatures by more than 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, and with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The Ibero-American countries stress that the agreement adopted at the Copenhagen Conference must reflect the pillars of mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology transfer and find the proper balance among them.

The Ibero-American countries stress that developing countries' efforts to mitigate and adapt to the negative effects of climate change must be supported by new, additional, sufficient and predictable international financial flows, and they call on the developed countries to submit proposals in that respect. In that spirit, they welcome the Mexican proposal for a Green Fund as a way of creating an efficient financial mechanism that manages economic incentives so that developing countries can increase their participation in global mitigation efforts. They also welcome Brazil's launch of the Amazonia Fund in order to promote both projects aimed at preventing and combating deforestation, and the conservation and sustainable use of forests in the Amazon biome.

In the same context, they welcome Bolivia's proposals on the creation of an international court of climate justice; Peru's proposal of a fund to finance reforestation; Argentina's proposal to establish, within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a fund which, following the parameters of the Convention itself, requires only public funding; and the Costa

Rican initiative, Peace with Nature, as well as the efforts and initiatives of all Ibero-American countries in the effort to combat climate change.

The Ibero-American countries believe that it is vital to strengthen the financial and technological support provided by developed countries to developing countries within the framework of climate change and emphasize the key role played by international public financing in this context, with a view to significant reductions of emissions by developed countries and strengthened actions by developing countries in order to meet the overall goal of mitigation. They also recognize the important role that the private sector can play in supporting mitigation actions and clean technologies.

They agree to promote and provide incentives for the use of energy produced from renewable sources and to combat climate change.

The Ibero-American countries welcome the fact that the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is to be held in Mexico in late 2010 and affirm their commitment to contributing constructively to the preparations for it. They also welcome Brazil's offer to host a summit on environment and sustainable development in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20) in 2012.

Special communiqué on the Inter-American Development Bank

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Estoril, Portugal, on the occasion of the Nineteenth Ibero-American Summit, support the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in its role as a regional financial institution, and particularly in its function of promoting economic and social infrastructure projects aimed at fostering the development of our countries. We welcome best practices for responding adequately to the challenges posed by the international financial and economic crisis, which was also a subject of discussion at this Summit. We support, in that regard, a substantial increase of capital for the IDB and the World Bank in order to ensure they have sufficient resources to carry out their development financing mandates. We urge that the process of substantially increasing the capital of the IDB should be completed at the next meeting of its Board of Governors, to be held in March 2010, and that the review of the World Bank should be finalized at the spring meeting to be held in April 2010, and to further the adoption of measures designed to make the practices of these institutions more efficient and more rational. In this regard, we express our determination to participate in and contribute actively to a radical and far-reaching transformation of the international financial architecture. We reiterate the need to address simultaneously the increase of the Ordinary Capital, the Fund for Special Operations and the Development Grant Facility. We consider it essential for future contributions and mechanisms to be ensured so that the Fund for Special Operations and the Development Grant Facility can be made sustainable, in accordance with the financing needs of the countries with the smallest and most vulnerable economies, thereby meeting their special development needs. To that end, member countries' contributions must be based on an equitable apportionment of expenses among the different shareholders, in keeping with their size and situation.

We also share the commitment to giving the Bank a greater impact on the development of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean by monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of its operations, thereby ensuring that contributors' resources are handled in an ethical manner and with transparency, responsibility and accountability.

We therefore urge the Group of Twenty and all the Bank's shareholders to support a substantial increase of the institution's capital, allowing it not only to meet the expected demand for financing, but also to play a counter-cyclical role so that it can respond rapidly in times of crisis. We also urge them to support a comprehensive institutional reform programme no later than at the annual meeting to be held in Mexico in 2010.

Special communiqué on the solidarity of the Ibero-American countries with the people and Government of El Salvador in the wake of recent natural disasters

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Estoril, Portugal, on the occasion of the Nineteenth Ibero-American Summit, reiterate our solidarity with the people and Government of El Salvador following the heavy losses of human life and property damage caused by the torrential rains that hurricane Ida brought.

We request that the Ibero-American Secretariat collaborate with the Government of El Salvador in encouraging the provision of bilateral or multilateral support for the repair and rebuilding of infrastructures and basic services in the affected areas.

Special communiqué on the strengthening of democracy and the upcoming general elections in the Plurinational State of Bolivia

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Estoril, Portugal, on the occasion of the Nineteenth Ibero-American Summit, convey our congratulations and support to the Bolivian Government and people for the holding, on 25 January 2009, of a constitutional referendum in which the new Constitution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia was approved by its people. This has strengthened dialogue and consultation among the various political forces and sectors of Bolivian civil society, and reinforced its democracy.

We also wish the people of Bolivia great success in the general elections to be held on 6 December 2009, in accordance with the aforementioned Constitution.

Special communiqué on the abduction of Spanish aid workers

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries, meeting in Estoril, Portugal, on the occasion of the Nineteenth Ibero-American Summit, strongly condemn the abduction of three Spanish aid workers in Mauritania. We demand that they be freed without delay and express our solidarity with the Government and people of Spain, as well as with the victims' families.